

# Let Freedom Ring!

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August 2003

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**Let Freedom Ring!/Libertarian Strategy Gazette** are edited and published by George Phillips, 87-6 Park Avenue, Worcester MA 01605, who is solely responsible for the contents, for the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association ([www.pvla.net](http://www.pvla.net)) and others. Subscriptions are available from the PVLA, c/o Carol McMahon, 221 Bumstead Road, Monson MA for \$15/year to Activists, \$20/year to others. Checks payable "PVLA", please.

## Future PVLA Plans

...Richard Watras, Chairman

A few issues should be addressed.

1) **PVLA will have a booth at the Boston Freedom Rally.** The booth will provide to visitors any info -- flyers, etc., the LPMA may wish to be passed out. The more booths that carry the Libertarian message, the more people we reach. We will be doing the OPH, and will gladly pass on to Kamal Jain any names we may gather. No tit for tat deals, just open cooperation. PVLA members who can get to the Boston Common on Saturday, September 20, 2002 for 12-6PM should join us.

2) **Let Freedom Ring!** newsletter. George Phillips has every right to produce his newsletter. George Phillips has made very clear that he is open for people to submit articles and op ed pieces. If anyone feels that certain articles or information need clarification, then by all means contact George and submit such clarification. This invitation has been made to certain parties and to the best of my knowledge an agreement has been reached.

[PVLA Plans] (Continued on page 2)

## Getting Started in Politics Gently

Running for elected office can be daunting, especially for State or Federal office. Even harder can be convincing the general voters that you would represent them in a way that they feel is not damaging to their lifestyle. Getting known to the voters in your district is what this article is about.

Instead of jumping into candidacy in a major partisan office, a good first step is to seek appointment to a board or commission in your town or city. This may be easier in smaller cities or towns. You may be surprised at how many commissions there in your town. Some of these may have long standing vacancies on the lesser known boards. (If you are not known to your Mayor, don't try for the most popular boards such as the Police Commission or the Planning

[Get Started in Politics] (Continued on page 5)

## Liberty In Our Lifetime: The Free State Project

The October PVLA Meeting will present Amanda Phillips, the New England representative for the Free State Project, to discuss this exciting political movement and answer your questions. Phillips will also speak at the October WCLA meeting. Please join us to learn whether you would want to be a part of it. The Free State Project is a program to mobilize 20,000 Libertarians who will choose a single small state—from a list including ND, NH, WY, MT, DE, ME, VT, SD, ID or Alaska—and all move there, with the intent of creating a state with a Libertarian political majority.

Phillips writes “Our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. All we have to do is move. We already have over 4,500 members committed to move to the Free State, and many more who can't commit to moving but still support the Free State Project.”

The PVLA meets the 2nd Wednesday of October, 10/8/2003, at Bickford's family restaurant, Old Boston and Pasco Roads, Springfield. The WCLA meets the Third Sunday of October (10/19) at Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street, Worcester.

## LPMA Just Says No! to Just Say Hi!

On a 4-3 vote, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts State Committee rejected the request of the Worcester County Libertarian Association—a recognized affiliate of the State Party—for names and contact information of dues-paying LPMA /LPUS members in Worcester County. The names would have been used in the *Just Say Hi!* program, in which Worcester area Libertarians would have telephoned other Libertarians in the District urging them to *get active in the Party* and inviting them to other Party events. The request was originally made to State Executive Director Kay Pirrello, who rejected the request, explaining “This request is being denied on the basis of lack of trustworthiness of and/or confidence in the requesting individual.” The individual in question is George Phillips, WCLA Chair, who was State Association Executive Director and Board member in 1996-1997.

[Don't Say Hi!] (Continued on page 3)

## Something To Be Excited About!

Charles A. Separk

PVLA Member

*Every member and friend of our Party owes a great debt to our founders; those who laid the base that made us what we are today. All of us who cherish liberty, who know the only thing of matter in life is freedom, need to pay homage to all those who have lead our great organization over the past years.*

Harry Browne ran for President of these United States and made a great effort of make the principles of the movement for liberty known all over this greatest of nations. I heard him speak at conventions, in debates, and over the airwaves many times. I was always impressed by his ability to clearly express the platform of the Libertarian Party. He was constantly a pure voice for all of us who are feeling the pains of the shackles of oppression emitting from the nation's capitol, the various state capitals, and the local governments. We all owe him and his predecessors a great debt. When the time comes, and our party is big enough, Harry Browne must be numbered in the pantheon of our heroes.

Now a new season is with us. New faces and new voices will be heard. The basic tenets of our cabal will be the same solid ones that rang true the day we were first gathered together. In this new time period wonderfully bright voices will find new ways to broadcast our message. That is exciting!

In the past fortnight I was watching the television. Some kind hand of fate guided me to a debate between Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan. Mr. Badnarik is a Constitutional scholar, and appeared to be a strong historian. Mr. Nolan is a former talk show host and claimed to be a long term Libertarian.

Both seemed to be clear and articulate. Neither attacked the two other parties. Both spent their time talking about our rights and privileges as granted by the words of the signers of the first documents of freedom. They refrained from attacking each other, even though the moderator gave them the chance more than once. In the main they seemed to agree on the direction that our country needs to take. The significant differences appeared to be in the style of leadership they will bring to the Capitol.

These men have announced they will be running for the nomination of the Libertarian Party for president of the United States. I watched as two sane people carried on a civilized discussion about how this country should be run, and what a chief executive ought to be doing for all of us. What most excited me, and speaks directly to my personal politic, is that neither wanted to do very much. However, they agreed strongly, that if something is not in the Constitution of the United States, it ought not to be in the law.

There is no way to know if either of these people will be nominated by our party to run. But we will run someone! We will present the only powerful voice that is capable of wrestling

our country from the hands of the entrenched. Our party will assume an awesome task in the near future. Electing the right person to the most powerful office in the world.

We need to take time now to begin to work toward this end. If you would like to help the Libertarians of Massachusetts build a strong Party that does the things I have proposed, please contact my fellow Libertarian, Carol McMahon, 221 Bumstead Road, Monson (413-250-6608) to discuss how we might best help the Libertarian Party.

(Continued from page 1) **PVLA Plans**

3) **Let Freedom Ring!** has not been used by the PVLA in its outreach efforts here in Western Mass. No warping of new libertarian minds has occurred. This newsletter is a George Phillies production not a PVLA or WCLA or HCLA or FCLA project. But I must say I think people are smart enough to make up their own minds especially fellow libertarians.

4) *The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association has made it quite clear that past disagreements with other Libertarian groups are indeed in the past so far as the PVLA is concerned.* The PVLA will work closely with any and all that wish to move the Liberation message forward to the residents of Massachusetts, without any preconceived notions or demands. I have stated to Kamal Jain that I wish to see the past conflicts disappear. Otherwise needed deeds will not be accomplished. We all must accept this fact. Everyone that I have talked to agrees, including George Phillies as well as Kamal Jain to name a few.

I myself will continue to work with any on the State Committee and the Chair of the LPMA to move the LPMA forward regardless of past issues. If anyone wants to help us with this, please contact me.

Richard W. Watras Jr

Chair, Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association  
ihaveknown@cs.com 413-364-2409

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## Where Your Money Went

The Nolan and Badnarik Campaigns for the Libertarian Presidential nomination have filed their quarterly reports covering April-June. The Nolan Campaign received \$12305 and spent \$12695, leaving it with \$92 cash on hand. The Badnarik campaign received \$7715 and spent \$10422, leaving it with \$515 cash on hand. These numbers are small fractions of the amounts raised by the Browne campaign in 1999.

Nolan campaign expenditures include \$800 to Erica Brown for campaign support services, \$135 to Politics Online for Credit Card Fees, \$70 for URL domain registrations, \$994 for brochure printing, \$236 for Post Office Box rental, \$105 for telephone, and travel reimbursements of \$4754 to Gary Nolan and nearly \$3800 to campaign chair Steve Dasbach. Dasbach was also paid \$1047 for printing reimbursements, and Nolan was also paid \$300 for Michigan event expenses.

Badnarik Campaign Expenses include \$700 to Action Screen Graphics for printing, \$614 to Austex Printing for campaign fliers, \$1850 to Lorrie Kopp as campaign services-treasurer, \$356 to the LP of Colorado for convention registration, \$163 to the Colorado Ramada for lodging for the campaign driver, nearly \$2700 to Tammy Stroud as campaign manager, less than \$300 for fundraising events and office supplies, and \$170 for phone expenses.

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts has managed to pay off all but two of its unpaid bills. It owes State Chair Kamal Jain \$3834 for newsletter printing and mailing during 2003, and Edward McCormick \$3389; McCormick is the Party's counsel. Its cash on hand includes \$2857 in its Federal Account and \$583 in its State account.

On the bright side, the State Convention did much better this year than last year. This year, \$8980 in meeting expenses, \$583 in convention printing, and \$3800 in convention services are to be matched against \$8000 in convention registrations and \$5258 in convention contributions (which admittedly includes some money not yet in hand), which is a close-to-breakeven outcome.

Kudos for the breakeven go to Kay Pirrello, who started with a far more expensive convention site agreement, and negotiated the site-related expenses down by \$10,000.

In contrast, in 2002 state meeting expenses included \$25,833 for meetings, \$1416 for meeting advertising, \$1054 for printing, and \$3760 for convention services, a total of nearly \$32,000, while convention registrations were \$16954 and do-

## Now Available in Paperback

George Phillies' books *Stand Up for Liberty!* on the Local Organization Strategy for the Libertarian Party, and *Funding Liberty* on the 1996-2000 Presidential campaign anomalies, are now available in paperback and ebook format.

For more information <http://www.3mpub.com/phillies>

(Continued from page 1) [Don't Say Hi!]

Vice Chair Tom LaRoche, sitting as Chair in the absence of Party Chair Kamal Jain, ruled that a rejection did not have to be based on an articulable reason. That is, the State Executive Director did not have to provide a explanation for her rejection that Phillies could discuss or refute. To defend his position that he was trustworthy and reliable, Phillies presented his long record of work for the State Party and local groups.

State Vice Chair Tom LaRoche cast the deciding negative vote. State Executive Director Kay Pirrello, who made the original decision rejecting the request, abstained, so 5 of 8 State Board members present had opposed the request in one or the other of their capacities. The WCLA is regrouping to consider a different approach to the same objective.

The Committee did offer the WCLA a single blind use of known email addresses to send an outreach message, subject to approval for content. The proposed content, advertising its Outreach Booth at the Boston Freedom Rally and its October Meeting Speaker, has already been questioned by members of the State Committee.

The WCLA is not alone in its situation. New Hampshire Free State Project activists approached both the State Party and the Howell campaign machine, asking for use of their lists for a mailing advertising the Free State Project (and New Hampshire), which might bring 20,000 Libertarian activists into our immediate vicinity. Rich Tomasso reports that they were turned down by both groups, though the State Party offered subject to approval to include a flier in the LPMA newsletter.

This is not the first time the WCLA has been placed in this situation. Several years ago, the WCLA ran another program using LPMA names. Then-State-Chair Eli Israel, according to the then-chair of the WCLA, imposed on the WCLA the requirement that Phillies not be allowed access to the LPMA names. There had, however, been some hope that more mature relations would be possible between the State Party and its own affiliates, now that there was new leadership in the State Party.

In much happier news, LPMA State Chair Kamal Jain is about to remarry. His bride-to-be is Framingham libertarian political activist Celeste Parent. Last year, Jain was the LPMA candidate for State Auditor. Jain was the first-ever Massachusetts Libertarian running for statewide office to carry a town—Hawley, Massachusetts—against all opponents.

As we reported last issue, the State Party is substantially in debt to Kamal. While the names of the debtors has changed, the debt was substantially inherited from the previous State Chair.

To repeat the editorial suggestion from last issue, State Party members who want to thank Kamal for his activities on behalf of our party could do far worse than to send the LPMA a donation to help it pay off its debts, which amount to 3/4 of a year of dues income.

## National Committee Meets

LNC Regional Representative Mark Cenci has reported to his constituents (which includes most though not all readers) on events. For readers who do not subscribe to masslp@yahoo groups.com, we provide a summary of his report. For his full reports, you should subscribe to masslp@yahoogroups.com. Ask Rich Watras ihaveknown@cs.com to put you on the list.

### **Notes from the Meeting of the Libertarian National Committee, June 28 and 29, 2003, Seattle, Washington**

The most notable thing at this meeting was the introduction of Joe Seehusen, the new Executive Director. Joe is impressive. His professional experience, his skill in managing our operations, and his ability to raise funds were all very evident at the meeting.

The chair, Geoff Neale, reported that he is nearing completion of the conversion from our current accounting system to Quickbooks. We have been unable to get functional financial reports for quite a while. The Treasurer commented that he did not feel our books were as bad as is being painted. This is a minority opinion of the LNC. If you want details, let me know. Financially, we are roughly \$50,000 behind our budgeted income, which is a modest 6.87% negative variance. This is directly attributed to a slowdown in LP News income, possibly BCRA related, and the staffs' lack of execution in selling the Libertarian Viewpoints. The fund raising letters have all performed well against historical standards, and the major donor fund raising is better than in past years.

The expenses are about 20% higher than we budgeted, about \$100,000. No one provided exact information on where this variance is happening. The major account categories (salary, UMP, rent) are all within reasonably modest variances. Our accounts payable have been flat over the past three months, after modest improvements in the spring due to an exceptionally good annual report. The delay of UMP payments over the past nine month has resulted in a swap in UMP arrears for vendor arrears. One reason we are in a financial mess is because of the 2002 Convention in Indianapolis.

Because we have yet another convention in May, 2004 (already in the planning stages), reform of past practices is a priority. A long resolution was approved directing the convention committee to not lose any money on the 2004 convention, to be sure that the credibility of the delegates and voting systems are maintained (it has been reasonably posited that they weren't in 2000 and 2002), to segregate convention funds from operating funds (they haven't been in the past) and to report to the LNC regularly (budget and pricing no later than September, monthly reports beginning in December).

The LNC is going to let those that are interested develop some Policy Governance model language. We booted the discussion on Branding and Core Constituency to the September meeting due to the lack of a report from staff. The branding fund rais-

ing letter did quite well, and this strategy has some popularity with members and donors.

The big discussion was on dues. A professional survey was obtained through voluntary donations. Three hundred randomly selected Basic Members, who do not give any other donations to the LP, were contacted by telephone. The gist of the survey was that there is good support for an increase to \$40, some support for a \$50 dues level, and no support for a \$100 dues. It appears a dues increase will not generate new revenue, because 30% of the Basic Members will not renew at all, and there will be costs to change our literature.

I am of the opinion that dues have almost no relationship to costs. IMO, basic dues are simply the most productive entry point for the organizational donor segment (vs. campaign donor and issue donor segments) of our political movement. As such, entry dues should be as low as possible and accelerated giving should be as easy, and enjoyable, as possible. After a bunch of jockeying around, we amended the motion to \$40 on basic membership, \$2,500 on life membership, increased basic UMP to \$1.50/month, and UMP II to \$1.00/month in the first year and \$2.00/month in subsequent years. At this point, the discussion was postponed until the September meeting.. Several State Chairs have told me a dues increase is not wanted, so my position is to vote against any dues increase that keeps the current member structure in place.

One action item without a report was heavily debated. Joe Dehn, CA regional rep, was upset about the lack of commitment to ballot access. He tried to get a volunteer champion from the LNC installed to oversee ballot access activities with funds raised by the party. This was defeated by an 11 - 5 vote. The current budget commits no core funds to ballot access activities (primarily petitioning). All funds for this must be raised separately by staff.

In doing this, the LNC clearly, and openly, stated that 50 state ballot access for our presidential candidate is not a priority, but if staff could find donors to support this, they are welcome to pursue it. The staff has been very poor at executing this project. I believe ballot status is an important project, as do many members who have funded it liberally in the past. However, I voted with the majority for reasons that I will share with you another day, if you are interested. Please inform me of your state's ballot status, and your plans to put our presidential candidate on the ballot. Respectfully submitted and with thanks to Mark Nelson of Iowa,  
Mark Cenci, Region 6 Rep

## Call for Volunteers

Anyone who lives in, or fairly close to West Virginia, is free to help the LP by petitioning. A petition is circulating now for Libertarian candidates for president, v-p and governor in West Virginia. We need 12,963 valid signatures before May 1, 2004. Our candidate for Governor, Dr. Simon McClure rebian@earthlink.net is coordinating the petitioning. LP treasurer Bill Redpath, who lives in Virginia, plans to help with the W.Va. petitioning, and I hope others in the area will think about this also.

...Richard Winger

(Continued from page 1) [Get Started in Politics]

Board.)

Go to your town or city hall and inquire. Look at all the bulletin boards for commission names and their meeting times. The City Clerk may have a list to hand to you. In Westfield, MA, there are 25 separate boards, councils and commissions, most of which are appointed positions. Go visit meetings of many boards; find out how they operate, what tasks they are actually charged with doing for the town. Look for vacancies and for boards that you feel that you can show the mayor that you can do the job satisfactorily.

Next, write a letter to the mayor or town manager offering your services. In the letter, tell him or her that you have attended one or more meetings, that you understand what is expected of you, and what relevant experiences you can bring to the city or town. Write the letter in somewhat of a resume style. Include job experience, education, hobbies, etc. Don't put any very personal information in this letter as it will probably be copied and distributed to all City Councilors or Selectmen and may be considered public information.

Even if there are no vacancies, send the letter anyway, but make it somewhat more general and suggest areas of interest. Something may come up soon. Continue attending meetings -- Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions are a good place to observe government in action and may help you meet people with contacts.

After the letter, follow up a few days latter with a phone call offering to come in to meet with the Mayor or Town Manager. In Westfield, the official procedure is appointment by the Mayor followed by confirmation by the City Council, after the Council's Personnel committee has interviewed you. The City Clerk then will swear you into office after which you are on the board or commission!

Once on a board, do your best! Try to avoid missing meetings. Volunteer for the tasks that others disdain such as the board's secretary.

Serving on appointed boards or commissions can get you better known in your community. This can lead to getting elected to local office, then later to regional or state office by demonstrating to the voters that Libertarian ideas aren't unreasonable and that you are a reasonable candidate to vote for. It will also give you some valuable instruction on how to govern and what makes your town tick.

...Alvin See

#### **PVLA Member**

The author is currently serving as the Chairman of the Westfield Flood Control Commission, an appointed commission, and has just turned in nomination papers for an At-Large seat on the Westfield City Council. The election is in Fall 2003. You can contact Alvin See at [absee@4liberty.net](mailto:absee@4liberty.net)

Richard Watras, PVLA Chair, is now compiling a list of boards and appointive posts for cities and towns in Hampshire County.

## **WCLA Activities**

In early Summer, Worcester-area pro-relegalization forces had a pro-relegalization rally in Worcester Green Hill Park. It was just like the Boston Common event, except a bit smaller. This was the first time an event of this sort has been done in Worcester. Yuko Oku and other organizers are to be congratulated for their fine efforts in running it.

The WCLA showed up with a tent and did outreach. George Phillies gave a Libertarian speech. Ronal Madnick gave an ACLU speech. Wind conditions were extreme. We repeatedly lost side panels on the tent. We still strongly urge Libertarians considering an OPH effort to spring for a pavilion tent. Ours is 10x10 with a 6' ceiling, which from experience is marginal in size; 12x12 would have been better. The tent has saved the day for the effort on repeated occasions.

The OPH effort and voter registration effort were limited--voters already were Libertarians. On the bright side, we had one person look at the Nolan chart, think, and announce "You people are Libertarians, aren't you? I'm a liberal. I don't agree with you!", proving that our message has penetrated. I reminded him we were liberal on many issues, and to remember us if that was what mattered.

The WCLA had a picnic on Sunday, August 3, at George Phillies' apartment on Grove Street. It will meet again the third Sunday in August. Important topic: we expect that WCLA Treasurer Brad Ritchie may be running for State Representative. Local legalization activist Yaakov Kronrod is running for City Council At-Large in Worcester; he is an independent. Amanda Phillips of the Free State Project [freestateproject.com](http://freestateproject.com) will speak at the October meeting to be held in Worcester.

We are mobilizing Worcesterians to go to the Boston Freedom Rally and help with our OPH tent. The Reach Out and Say Hi! program to contact local Libertarians is waiting for contact data.

Worcester area resident George Phillies and LNC alternate Bonnie Scott have finished a campaign support CD ROM. It is has now been pressed and is being shipped. Massachusetts Libertarians who are running for office need only ask to have a copy.

Western Massachusetts resident Robert Underwood is now translating the Central Massachusetts Liberty Coalition web pages ([www.cmlc.org](http://www.cmlc.org)) into Spanish. This is an extremely slow task. The Front pages and other pages ranging back to an issues summary have been translated. Bob's next target will be a complete translation of George Phillies book *Stand Up for Liberty!* on local organization.

We have not yet heard from any Libertarian Presidential candidates who want help being put onto the ballot by petition, but stand ready to assist should this be needed. The WCLA recently had elections. New officers are Brad Ritchie, Treasurer, and George Phillies, Chair.

## Where Your Money Went

The National Party recently sent out a fundraiser to procure money for a Small Business Owner initiative. That fundraiser reportedly netted over \$40,000. It seems, or so LNC Member Steve Trinward appears to be claiming on the lpaz-discuss email list of the Arizona Party, that the money is going instead to pay off Party debt. The pretext for the transfer is that in months past LNC money went to pay for the development of the Small Business initiative, and in any event the Party has to pay off its debts. Trinward is defending the LNC actions. The prior fundraiser's money went the same way.

For June 2003, the National Party had \$151,111 in income and spent \$136,277. Terminal cash on hand was \$18,794. Party debts and obligations fell substantially to \$144,531, but this number does not include money from the ballot access and small business fundraisers that was diverted to other purposes. In mid-June, cash on hand was inadequate to make both UMP payments and staff payroll; it appears that by month's end staff and most states were paid, so that UMP remains two months or so behind. California is owed \$15481; Massachusetts is owed \$2497.

Disbursements included (larger numbers rounded) \$219 to David Bergland for travel, \$10,150 for staff health insurance, \$95 for cooler rental, \$323 to the American Liberty Foundation for bulk books, \$750 for web site maintenance, \$1050 to Lenco Management Services, \$2300 for staff benefits to MassMutual Life, \$1000 to MCS Event Decorators for convention staging, \$3000 to Mount Vernon for printing, \$6300 to Accumail (mailing services), \$542 for a newspaper clipping service, \$1300 to B&B for printing, \$3000 to Newport Creative Communications, Groton MA for direct mail consulting, \$4000 to Ox Solution development as an accounting consultant, \$6800+ for postage, more than \$10,600 to PrimePay for payroll services and taxes, \$1250 to Rodney Severson, South Carolina, as a consulting consultant, \$7913 in rent, \$1918 to Walton press for printing, \$2085 in legal fees, ...but nothing for ballot access.

Debts include \$4289 to Accumail, \$3700 for clipping services, \$4964 for convention hall rental, \$2997 to ecountable for computer consulting, \$1938 to Erin Hollinden, vast sums to the State Parties, \$5100 to Newport Creative, \$12686 to Rubin and McGeehin for accounting, \$6072 to Purchase Power for postage, \$3942 to Victory Enterprises of Davenport, Iowa, \$2054 to Walton press, and \$4165 to Walter Norcross and Judd for legal fees. Payments for services under several cognomens went to Ananda Creager, Ron Crickenberger, Steven Damarell, Nick Dunbar, George Getz, Erin Hollinden, Alex Koroknay-Palicz, Dollie Parker, Dianne Pilcher, Mark Schreiber, Joseph Seehusen, and William Winter.

**Keep Your Money in Massachusetts.** Massachusetts Libertarian organizations that take donations--each with its own set of legal restrictions on how they may be spent--include:

- **LPMA**, c/o Kamal Jain, 26 Cedar Road, Littleton MA 01460 (State Party)
- **PVLA**, c/o Carol McMahon, 221 Bumstead Road, Monson, MA 01057 (Western Activities)
- **Liberty Congressional PAC**, c/o George Phillies, 87-6 Park Avenue Worcester MA 01605 (Federal candidates)
- **Liberty Tree Small Government Low Taxes Political Action Committee**, c/o George Phillies, 87-6 Park Avenue Worcester MA 01605 (Massachusetts State candidates).

## What We Might Do

How might we move toward a State Party focused on doing politics: building strong local organizations, electing candidates to office, and performing other political acts that would move Massachusetts in a Libertarian direction?

As I said last issue, you cannot win with better Party By-laws. You cannot win with fancier Committee structures. However, bad ByLaws can certainly keep you from winning. Bad committee structures can certainly keep you playing games rather than doing politics. Unfortunate election procedures can fail to represent the entire membership.

Without suggesting that what we are presently doing is bad, I ask if there are ways to do better.

First, a change in name. The State Committee is there to do work. Instead of spawning Committees, it should form *Working Groups*. These for the most part should be open to whatever party members want to do work.

Second, a change of focus. What *should* the core Working Groups of the State Committee be? That's asking what the State Committee should be doing. What are the major tasks? Let me suggest, in order of decreasing importance:

*Local Organization* — doing grassroots development of local and regional groups

*Electioneering*—Candidate recruitment, training, and support.

*Political Action*—Letter campaigns, initiatives, public policy questions, demonstrations

*Outreach*—Party Newsletter, web page, advertising—things that describe ways members can help and reasons the public should vote for us.

*Membership*—Recruitment, retention, education

*Fundraising*—Raises money

*Back Office*—Membership and financial records, by-laws, judicial processes, convention operations.

Third, there needs to be a recognition that we are a voluntary, cooperative organization, not a hierarchical industrial firm. Hierarchical organization works poorly in modern business focused on skilled labor. It will not readily serve us better. Corresponding to this need, the role of the 'Chair' should be greatly de-emphasized. You do need someone who is good at running meetings. That person may not be good at other things. The persons who are important should be the large numbers of people who do work.

Finally, the people who are now actually doing work, such as the Membership Secretary, should be properly recognized as important members of the State Committee.

If you find these ideas interesting as a direction in which to move the State's Libertarians, I would be happy to discuss how we we might move in these directions.

George Phillies 508 754 1859 phillies@4liberty.net

**PVLA Member**